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Title: BIOGRAPHY OF GENERAL BENJAMIN W. CHEDLAW

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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GENERAL BENJAMIN WILEY CHIDLAW, USAF

Benjamin Wiley Chidlaw was born at Cleves, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati, on December 18, 1900. After graduating from Woodward High School in Cincinnati, he entered the U.S. Military Academy from which he was graduated June 13, 1922, and appointed a second lieutenant of Air Service. From December, 1922, until January, 1924, he took primary flight training at Brooks Field, Texas, and advanced training at Kelly Field, Texas.

General Chidlaw remained at Kelly Field as a flying instructor until June, 1924, when he went to the Philippine Islands for duty with the Third Pursuit Squadron at Clark Field. In October, 1926, he was assigned to Brooks Field as a flying instructor and in 1928, was named assistant staging commander and final check pilot. In July, 1930, he entered the Air Corps Engineering School at Wright-Patterson Field, Ohio, and was graduated in June, 1931.

The following five years General Chidlaw was project officer of the Training and Transport Aircraft Branch, Air Corps Materiel Division, at Wright-Patterson Field. In early 1934, he spent three months helping the Air Corps inaugurate its flying of the air mail. In August, 1935, he entered the Air Corps Tactical School at Maxwell Field, Alabama. He was graduated in June, 1936, and entered the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He completed the course in June, 1937, and went to Langley Field Virginia, to join the Second Bombardment Group. He became operations officer in May, 1938, and in January, 1939, was named technical assistant to the assistant chief of staff for materiel at General Headquarters Air Force at Langley.

Following a period of temporary duty at Wright-Patterson Field, General Chidlaw was assigned in March, 1939, in the Supply Division of the office of the Chief of the Air Corps. Three months later he became chief of the Engineer Section in that division and in October, 1939, transferred to the Materiel Division as chief of the Experimental Engineering Branch. He later transferred to Air Force Headquarters with the same duties and during this period monitored and directed the development of the original jet engine and jet airplane.

In March, 1943, General Chidlaw was assigned to the office of the Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Materiel, Maintenance, and distribution, as chief of the Materiel Division. During this time he represented the Army Air Forces on several joint RAF-AAF technical missions in London. In April, 1944, he was assigned as deputy commanding general of the 12th Tactical Air Command in the Mediterranean theater. Following the invasion of Southern France, in which the 12th TAC participated, he organized and commanded the

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22th Tactical Air Command which supported the Fifth Army's drive up the Italian Peninsula.

General Chidlaw, in March, 1945, assumed command of the Mediterranean Allied Tactical Air Forces, composed of the American 12th Air Force, the British Desert Air Force, and associated service elements. Upon the surrender of the German Forces in the Mediterranean theater, he was assigned as deputy commanding general for operations of the Air Technical Service Command; (later redesignated Air Materiel (Command) at Wright-Patterson Field. In October, 1947, he was promoted to lieutenant general, and was appointed deputy commanding general of Air Materiel Command, of which he became commanding general September 1, 1949.

On July, 28, 1951, General Chidlaw was appointed commanding general of the Air Defense Command at Ent-Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

General Chidlaw has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Air Medal, and Bronze Star Medal. His foreign Decorations include the French Croix de Guerre with Palm and Legion of Honor; the Brazilian Commander, Order of the Southern Cross, and Aeronautical Medal of Merit; the Polish Cross of Valor; the British Commander, Order of the British Empire. He also wears the American Defense ribbon, American theater ribbon, European-African-Middle East Defense ribbon with five Bronze Stars, and Victory Medals for both World Wars.

He rated a command pilot and combat observer.

He and his wife, the former Miss Lillian Marie Braun, of Cincinnati, Ohio, have one son, Ben Evan Chidlaw.

PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to first lieutenant (permanent) April 26, 1927; to captain (permanent) August 1, 1935; to major (temporary) March 1, 1940; to major (permanent) September 8, 1941; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) September 8, 1941; to lieutenant colonel (permanent) June 13, 1945; to colonel (temporary) March 1, 1942; to brigadier general (temporary) November 2, 1942; to major general (temporary) April 9, 1945; to lieutenant general (temporary) October 1, 1947; to major general (permanent) February 19, 1948, with date of rank from December 22, 1942, to general (temporary) October 29, 1951.

END

Up to date as of 31 October 1951

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6 August 1954

Air Force News Service
Release Number 44

KNOW YOUR AIR FORCE LEADERS---Gen. Benjamin W. Chidlaw

General Benjamin W. Chidlaw, an airman for the last 32 years, now wears two military hats. In addition to commanding the Air Defense Command, with headquarters at Colorado Springs, Colorado, he also heads the newly-formed Continental Air Defense Command, composed of elements of all three services.

Some of General Chidlaw's earliest flying was done in the Philippine Islands in the mid-1920s when he was assigned to the Third Pursuit Squadron at Clark Field. Ten years later he was helping the old Air Corps inaugurate its flying of the air mail.

During World War II General Chidlaw held command responsibilities in the European Theater. He first was deputy commanding general of the 12th Tactical Air Command in the Mediterranean Theater, in spring 1944. Following the invasion of Southern France, in which 12th TAC participated, he organized and commanded the 22nd Tactical Air Command which supported the Fifth Army's drive up the Italian Peninsula. In March 1945 he assumed command of the Mediterranean Allied Tactical Air Forces, composed of the American 12th Air Force, the British Desert Air Force and other elements, a position he held on the surrender of the German forces in the Mediterranean Theater.

General Chidlaw has been decorated by the British, French and Polish governments, as well as his own country, for service in the war.

General Chidlaw has been in the Air Force since 1922 when he was graduated from the U. S. Military Academy and appointed a second lieutenant of Air Service. He took flight training at fields in Texas, and subsequently held many assignments in tactical and materiel commands. He has headed Air Defense Command since July 1951.

General Chidlaw is 53 years old, and a native of Cleves, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati. He and Mrs. Chidlaw have one son.

E N D



P-1028 ²⁴ Maj Gen. Benjamin W. Chidlaw

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